

Why Prophecy Fails

In the aftermath of Reverend Harold Camping's prediction of the Rapture on May 21, 2011, which did not occur as envisioned, it leads us to inquire why this mantic failure may have occurred. To understand what happened, and why this prophecy did not come true, we must first understand the different strata of the mind that look into the future: what each predicts, and how each is subject to error.

Level of the Mind	Faculty	How It Predicts the Future	Potential Drawbacks
Conscious mind	Reason	It uses deductive reasoning and inference to construct a trend line analysis, and to project a probable future.	Incorrect premises, unforeseen factors, and lack of correct information on which to base the prediction will yield erroneous results.



Level of the Mind	Faculty	How It Predicts the Future	Potential Drawbacks
Conscious mind	Ego	It uses faith and hope to believe that a desired outcome will come true. The cord of faith must be activated for this expectation to operate	The idea that is embraced by hope and buoyed up by faith may not be a rational one. This conduit of misguided enthusiasm has led many “true believers” to be swindled by con-men and fleeced by self-serving salesman, seduced by demagogues and dictators, and led astray by inspired but incorrect religious beliefs disseminated by their clergy and other spiritual teachers.
Subconscious mind	Attentional Principle	It views the track of the Soul and examines the stages of the Path that have been opened (Initiatory future). With further meditation training, some individuals are able to read the track of future lives out-pictured in the mind of God (Vision of future incarnations).	The relative skill of reading this material varied widely. It is common to introduce unwitting distortions into these readings through imagination, misinterpretation, and projection of the unconscious mind.

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Subconscious Mind	Individual spirit	It looks forward on its path to see the attainment of blessedness (Heaven), beatitude in the Presence of God, and ultimate reunion with its Source.	Distortion creeps into this perception when individuals are taught that they will be magically “raptured,” or that they will go to heaven when they die if they are faithful believers and lead a good and righteous life. As a result of these beliefs, the spirit does not open the Nadamic channels, and does not actually go to these landmarks upon the path.
Metaconscious mind	Concrete mind	It plans the future after the Self has decided upon a goal, and maintains positive expectations of a successful outcome.	Incorrect information, inadequate preparation for the task, or inability to predict and deal with unanticipated contingencies may lead to failure.

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Metaconscious Mind	Intellect	It predicts the future based on mathematical or statistical models. Success of prediction is based on the theoretician's ability to include all relevant factors that have bearing on the outcome, and to lower the incidence of error through careful design of the model. This produced predictions that are correlational estimates couched in a margin of error; these models do not purport to be able to predict with 100% accuracy.	Incorrect information (data), incorrect assumptions, experimenter or subject bias, using an incorrect statistical modeling method, and not anticipating relevant factors all lead to false predictions.



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Superconscious mind	Archetypal inspiration	This type of prophecy is common in the Subtle Realm. These prophetic dreams and visions arise from trance communion with the gods, goddesses, and spirits of their faith. These prophecies are sometimes uttered aloud during ecstatic trance states engendered by the ingestion of psychoactive substances such as anesthetic or psychedelic drugs; long hours of dancing; or undergoing “possession” by spirits. The material received is often cryptic, vague, and ambiguous; typically must be interpreted by a priest or shaman.	The vague symbolic material received in these trances is broad enough so it could be construed to apply to a variety of scenarios, or interpreted as applying to many different situations. It is common to misinterpret the meaning of these mysterious prophetic utterances.



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Superconscious Mind	Occult Manipulation	In this method, the occultist anchors suggestions in the mind of others and induces them to act in the way they have been commanded. This method uses intimidation or threats to induce fear. It gives false information to induce willing compliance. It makes false promises to create hope and expectation. Its objective is to create an outcome that they direct.	It may not be possible to reliably create the future through these means, as those who are the unwilling victims of this method do not always go along. Some individuals may realize they are being manipulated, and do not allow themselves to succumb to fear, lies, or false promises. Others may develop conspiracy theories that suspects this manipulation, but may attribute it to non-related or erroneous perpetrators.



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	Empirical Science	<p>Scientific method builds hypotheses to predict the future, but tests these hypotheses by experiment. Predictions can be made about the behavior of people or other objects of inquiry. The same methodical method is used to test each hypothesis, and to control for potential bias or error.</p>	<p>Science uses the intellect to design experiments and to formulate hypotheses; it is therefore subject to all of the limitations of intellectual problem solving strategies. Its range of acceptable subject matter is limited to what can be observed by the senses or detected with instruments, so it is largely confined to making predictions about the material world or material phenomena. As a result of this, it tends to reduce complex phenomena to materially observable ones—so consciousness is equated with the activity of the brain or electrical brain waves.</p>

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Superconscious Mind	“Intuitive Science”	<p>Psychic seers use symbolic arrays such as Numerology, Astrology, I Ching, and the Tarot as divinatory templates. The ability of divinatory systems to predict the future is purported based on synchronicity, where an intrapsychic impression or temporal event is mirrored in the divinatory array. Psychics may alternately use non-structured readings to assess the querent, including aura readings (readings of energy around the body), discernment of entities or spirits in people’s unconscious mind, or readings of energy or resonance in objects (psychometry).</p>	<p>As the symbols used by these psychic soothsayers can have many meanings, it takes great skill and discernment to determine which potential meaning of the symbol applies to the querent’s life and situation. Sometimes the symbolic ideas shared with the querent are so broadly applicable that they would apply, no matter what the querent is experiencing. No two psychics will view a structured reading in the same way, so a querent will receive widely divergent This variability between psychic readers can also be observed in unstructured readings.</p>

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Superconscious Mind	Wisdom	This predicts outcome based on past experience and knowledge of metaphysical laws.	Wisdom may not be able to make predictions of consequences for areas in which one does not have life experience, or when the individual does not have knowledge of a metaphysical law.
	Revelatory Mind	This center awakens during the First Planetary Initiation, but may be prematurely activated in those that contemplate the Moon Soul nucleus of identity. This center allows interpretation of scripture. It may devise different numerical codes to represent spiritual ideas and do calculations with them (Gematria). It can give interpretations of symbols and dreams.	Since many different interpretations can be assigned to numbers, (e.g., "888=Christ") or many different filters can be applied to a symbol (e.g., Babylon can be viewed as a city, a civilization, a type of political or religious system, among many others), it is difficult to know the accuracy of any interpretation or prediction made through this center.

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Superconscious Mind	The mirror of future lives, civilizations, and epochs	There are a number of vantage points in the First Esoteric Planetary Initiation, the Third Planetary Initiation, the First Cosmic Initiation, the Fourth Cosmic Initiation, on certain Supracosmic paths, and on certain Transcendental paths (particularly T5) where an individual can glimpse visions of their own and other's future lives, the future of civilizations, and the coming and going of Great Epochs (e.g., Yugas or Kalpas).	Since none of these vantage points gives the same information, and there is no way to validate this information—which can span trillions of years—these visions of “potential futures” remain highly speculative at best, and delusional at worst.

As can be seen from this examination of the strata of prediction is that each type of vision of the future has drawbacks and sources of potential error; only reason, intellect, and the structured approach of Science have put procedures in place to attempt to control for error. These admit, with appropriate humility, that even their best estimates are sometimes erroneous.

The inherent limitation of Science to not be able to give information about “non-physical” phenomena (e.g., the Soul, the spirit, the attentional principle, the spiritual “Planes” or worlds of dimension, and God), leaves these “non-scientific” realms of human experience open to the vagaries of highly imaginative and speculative interpretive systems that give highly variable and widely divergent predictions and observations.

This wide divergence of opinion is characteristic of religion; we may speculate that those who constructed the orderly edifices of reason, intellect, and Science, did so in reaction to the wild flights of fancy to which the highly enthusiastic religious mind is liable.

Reverend Camping’s odd calculations of the date of the Rapture and the end of the world derived from the revelatory center, which appears to be highly active in him.

We suggest to Mr. Camping and others who listen to the whisperings of the revelatory mind—that while this material is fascinating and compelling—it has a track record of poor predictive ability. If one alters the symbolic filtering in just the right way, multiple patterns or events can be recognized as the fulfillment of prophecy; using any computed phrase in combination with others can yield any number of dates for “Divine Advents” or eschatological catastrophes. Depending on what concepts are combined (e.g., “Advent” + “redemption” + “second coming” yields different dates than if other phrases are chosen), almost any potential end of the world scenario can be constructed.

We offer to those who drink deeply of these sweet nepenthes of delirious delights, articles on our website and in our books that may clarify how to approach interpretation of scriptures and teasing out the meaning in symbolic material.

In our book—*Religions, Cults, and Terrorism: What the Heck Are We Doing?*— we refer the reader to the articles, “Levels of Meaning in Scripture,” “Digging Deeper into Interpretation,” and the “Seven Veils of Religious Truths.”

In our book—*The Psychic Realm: Finding Safe Passage through the Worlds of Illusion*—we refer the reader to the article, “On Developing Discernment.”

On our website, we refer the reader to our article, “Symbolic Meditation.”

We suggest that we must approach divination, and symbolic or scriptural interpretation with much humility and much care, realizing that the numinous realm of symbols is fraught with mystery and danger, for if we tread here without firm tracks under our feet, we may be swept away by the Sirens of the Astral and be lost beneath the waves of the unconscious—subject to all of its illusions and distortions.



What about the Last Judgment? The Rapture? 2012?

There are many doomsday scenarios that are in the collective mind. People in touch with the Psychic Realm and the Revelatory Center disseminate their visions to many individuals who are operating from the ego's cord of faith. People who operate from this faith platform trust in these messages, and anticipate that they will occur.

Until people develop discernment, however, they are subject to all of the distortions promulgated by these visionaries, and often are led astray.

So what are these visions, anyway?

The Last Judgment – this vision of the Great Judge or Dharma Raja, shows that all humanity will be judged, and sent to a heavenly or hellish realm depending on their lives. This actually does occur—but on an individual basis, when a person dies. It doesn't happen to all humanity at once. Someone been trippin'.

The Rapture – Some Christian ministers bent a scripture out of shape and predict that all “saved” Christians are going to be caught up in the air to meet Jesus. The real Rapture—being caught up into the clouds and seeing Jesus and the Father—occurs when the spirit ascends in the third domain (it's the first Plane above the ground state where you see the “heavenly clouds”).

2012 – Well, the Mayan calendar is coming to an end. So on 12/12/12 (love that numerology!) we will all become turned into Light and all become Godlike beings. The New Age people been trippin', too.



Meditation on Your Centers that Tell You about the Future

- (1) Contemplate each center that tells you about the future in your personality—reason, ego, concrete mind, and intellect, and intellect’s higher counterpart, Science. How reliable are they? When have they been correct? When have they resulted in errors? When there were errors, what went wrong?
- (2) Look at your attentional principle and your spirit. Have you ever done a meditation on the future using these essences? What did you determine about your future spiritual development?
- (3) Have you ever gotten insights from inspirational or visionary sources within about the future? Look at the archetypal, occult, psychic, and revelatory levels. Have you ever acted on guidance from these levels? Have you ever gotten predictions from these levels? What were your results?

Thank you for attending our webinar today!

